

# St. Johns United Church of Christ

## News from Pastor Ken

May 2024

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I know that everyone has a story for when the weather has been worse or better or different but.... this has been just an odd winter / spring for weather. There was a week when it started in the 60's and ended in the teens. There has been snow in April. We have had days that included a little winter and summer all in a day of spring. This weather has been teasing us for over a month.

In spite of it all, I cannot believe how excited I am about the possibility of spring. I cannot wait to spend more time in the yard and in the garden. The gardens seem to be alive already. It is like they could not wait any longer, regardless of the weather. I love watching the gardens come alive.

Taking care of the garden has become a series of great life lessons for me. One of those lessons is that I am still learning to balance the hard work of gardening with remembering to take time to enjoy the garden. I find seeking that balance an interesting metaphor for life. We sometimes get so busy doing life that we forget to enjoy life. However, that being said, I am actually thinking about a couple new garden ideas for this year. They are always a work in progress. And while continuing the discussion of balance, I am actually working on some vacation ideas. As always, we will see how the plan unfolds.

I love the sight, sound and smell of spring, full sensory overload. The garden in early spring serves as a wonderful reminder of all the miracles of life. Just like in our own lives, there is a lot of amazing stuff going on, but because it often happens just below the surface, we sometimes forget to notice it. There exists an amazing opportunity for transition, both in our yards and in our lives. Often where and when we least expect it.

So this Easter season I hope you continue to look for the miracles wherever and whenever they may appear, regardless of how big or how small they may be.

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## Pastor Ken Newsletter Continued

Remember, this is truly a season of hope and resurrection. As I work in the garden and experience the joy of new life, my hope is that each of us has the opportunity to experience new life spiritually as well.

With all of challenges that life brings, both in the world and in some of our own homes, it is sometimes hard to remember that God is with us always and at work in our lives. I think that is one of the true miracles of Easter and spring. We are reminded with every winter there comes a season of rebirth and new hope. Sometimes it just takes a while for us to notice it.

So, look around, take a deep breath or two, okay, maybe for some of us three, and know that God is at work in your life right now. Even if you cannot see it or feel it yet, God is preparing you for a personal Easter transformation.

Remember that whoever you are and wherever you are on life's journey, you are held in God's unconditional love, boundless mercy, and unending grace and there is a place for you here.

And remember, be kind to yourself.  
Take care and be well, Peace  
Ken

## Happy Birthdays in May

5/2 Judy O'Brien  
5/25 Jimmy Galvin

## Worship Ministry

Volunteers Needed

Please sign-up

Please consider signing up for the ministries of Usher/ Greeter, Liturgists, Communion Servers, and Altar Care.



### Military Prayer List

I will be including a list in the newsletter of our men and women in the military, to acknowledge those who serve and to pray for their safety. Please submit your love one's, family member or friend's name, rank, and branch of service to be placed on the list.

Joshua Bieske	Sgt. First Class	US Air Force
Lacey Tite	Security	US Navy

### Prayers For .....

Prayers for .... Anthony, Bea, Barb, Darren, Mike, Candi, Jenna, Carveth & Osterland Families, Will, Katie, Dennis, Robbie, Judy, Myles, Jack & Judy & Family, Nancy, Nelson & Loretta, Sherri, Carolyn, Krista, Jim, Linda, Kurt, David, Joe & Bernetta, Noah, Joy, Sis, Bill, Tamera, Trisha, Marion, Lois, Lynn, Carolyn, Nelson, Melissa, Sandy, World Peace

Families of St. John & St. James

# Kid's Page



## Memorial Day Poem

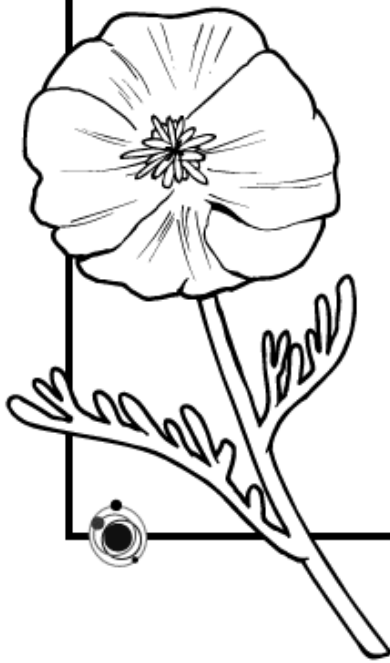
# *In Flanders' Fields*

In Flanders fields the poppies blow  
Between the crosses, row on row,  
That mark our place; and in the sky  
The larks still bravely singing, fly  
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago  
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
Loved and were loved, and now we lie  
In Flander's fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:  
To you from failing hands we throw  
The torch; be yours to hold it high.  
If ye break faith with us who die  
We shall not sleep, tho poppies grow  
In Flander's fields.

Liet. -Col. John McCrae



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## Meeting Minutes / Reports

### St. John's United Church of Christ March 11, 2024, Council Meeting Minutes

Call to Order: 6:35 p.m.

Opening Prayer: Pastor Ken

Council Members Present: Pastor Ken, Kurt Schultz, Dorothy Schultz, Miriam Guyor, Shari Faucher

Absent: Katie Phelan, Linda Gerard

February 12, 2024 Minutes: Shari made the motion to accept the minutes with correction. Second by Dorothy. Carried.

Calendar updates: April 1- May 15: collection of rummage sale items

April 8: Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

April 24: Seder celebration, 7 p.m. at St. John's

May 10: Don Weichert Memorial, 11:00 a.m.

May 17-18: Rummage and bake sale

#### Ministry Reports

Worship      Dort will take over attendance/giving board.

Fellowship    Murphy Inn fundraising dinner profited \$ 660.

Outreach      Blood drive: Shari is hoping to schedule on July 18 or 25.

#### Spiritual Growth

A. Sunday School: Humane Society donation campaign will be held through April 14.

B. Lenten Discussion Group: How to Live a More Christian Life has been informative and enjoyable for those participating.

C. Pastor Ken is presenting a Passover Seder celebration on April 24, St. John's, 7:00 p.m.

#### Earthly Gifts

Treasurer's Report: Motion to accept the report by Miriam. Second by Dort, carried.

A. Plate offering is down, expenses went up

#### Building and Grounds:

A. Kurt is checking into getting outdoor lighting issues resolved and has changed batteries in clocks and smoke detectors.

B. Terry needs to be contacted about lawn maintenance.

C. No contract received from Maple Landscaping for snow removal, haven't been charged.

D. Storage shed needs maintenance.

E. Set up a spring cleaning day for church and set up a walk through to make a "fix it" list for areas that need attention.

Records/History Book: Addition of Don Weichert's passing.

Pastor's Report: Numerous hospital and hospice care appointments and funeral services.

New Business: Bob and Sandy getting palms and lilies for Easter services.

#### Unfinished Business:

Correspondence: Card received from St. Jude's Children's Hospital for donation received in memory of Melanie Provencher, Shari Faucher's daughter.

Adjournment: Shari made the motion to adjourn at 8:18 p.m. Second by Dort and carried.

Closing prayer: Pastor Ken

Next meeting is April 8, 2024

## President's Letter

God's blessings to all,

We have witnessed the miracle of new growth once again and things and budding, blooming, or growing with the onset of spring.

This is our rummage sale month and we are gearing up to make it another successful event. With that being said, there is a couple weeks before the sale, so please bring in things for the sale. We will be taking items until the 15<sup>th</sup>. If you have things you need help getting to the church, please let us know, we can make arrangements. The sale will be May 17 and 18, so we will need help with set-up on the 15<sup>th</sup> and the 16<sup>th</sup>. If you are able to help, please do so.

We will be having a spring cleaning on May 11<sup>th</sup>. It will be from 9 am till Noon. We really need all who can help to come in and tidy things up. I also will be getting with a few individuals to accompany me on a walk around to spot needed repairs and we can then work on those thru the summer.

The word of the Lord can bring revival - a sort of spiritual spring – at any time. The teachings of God are like rain on seedlings, causing leaves to open and flowers to bud during a spring celebration.

Blessings of peace to you all.

Respectfully committed: Kurt Schultz

## **May Activities**

Saturday, May 4 – Euchre at St. James – 6:30pm

Sunday, May 5 – Sunday Worship with Holy Communion – 11am

Friday, May 10 – Don Weichert Memorial Service – 11am

Monday, May 13 – Council Meeting – 6:30pm

Friday, May 17 – Rummage and Bake Sale

Saturday, May 18 – Rummage and Bake Sale

Sunday, May 19 – Sunday Worship with Holy Communion -11am



St. John's UCC Annual

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# Rummage &



# Bake Sale



**Friday, May 17**

9 am-5 pm



**Saturday, May 18**

9 am-3 pm



527 N. William St., Marine City

Multi-family, household, furnishings, clothing, more

**Inside/outside- rain or shine!**

**“Name Your Own Price” pricing**

All proceeds benefit St. John's United Church of Christ

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# ***Giving Lasts All Year!***

St. John's & St. James' Christmas Charity Tote Bags: Some needed items:

We are starting over again for the next year. The tote bags are for both boys and girls between the ages of 2 and 14. The items accepted anytime: hygiene items such as: toothbrush holders, toothbrushes, toothpaste, washcloths, dental floss, comb/brushes, hair accessories such as head bands, ponytails, clips, bows, and barrettes and school supplies such as: notebooks, crayons, colored pencils, colored markers, pencil sharpeners, scissors (for youngsters and older children), rulers, large erasers. Pens, pencils and socks, hats, scarves and gloves/mittens and toys.

**Please donate travel size items**, we only have so much space to store the items in for the year and we need to get all items to fit in the bags. Please try to **stick to the list** so we receive enough of the items we need and not a little of items that are considered extra items.

Thank you!!!

Donations accepted all year to accumulate 100 of each item.  
distribution is via local organizations. Donation box & COMPLETE LIST on table.

## **Scripture Readings for May**

**Sunday, May 5**  
**Sixth Sunday in Lent**  
Acts 10: 44-48  
Ps 98  
1 John 5; 1-6  
John 15: 9-17  
**Friends Together**

**Sunday, May 19**  
**Pentecost Sunday**  
Acts 2: 1-21 or Ezek 37: 1-14  
Ps 104: 24-34, 35b  
Rom 8: 22-27 or Acts 2: 1-21  
John 15: 26-27, 16:4b-15  
**Spirit for All**

**Sunday, May 12**  
**Seventh Sunday in Lent**  
Acts 1: 15-17,21-26  
Ps 1  
1 John 5; 9-13  
John 17: 6-19  
**Guided in Prayer**

**Sunday, May 26**  
**Trinity Sunday**  
Isa 6: 1-8  
Ps 29  
Rom 8: 12-17  
John 3: 1-17  
**Mysterious Encounter**

# Additional Activities

## Sunday Services

Sunday Service is held at 11:00 a.m. each week. This service is also available live via online streaming at 11:00 a.m. St. James' service is streamed at 9:00 a.m. Both are available to view as a video any time after the live streams. [www.facebook.com/Stjohnsuccmarinecity](http://www.facebook.com/Stjohnsuccmarinecity) or [www.facebook.com/St.James-United-Church-of-Christ-10150090210425008](http://www.facebook.com/St.James-United-Church-of-Christ-10150090210425008)

## Council Meetings

The Church Council's next meeting is May 13th at 6:30 p.m. in the Community Room.

## Sunday School

Sunday School is held the second and fourth Sundays of each month. **Sunday School will be ending on May 1, 2024, until Fall.** Students are encouraged to attend services on the first and third Sundays as well. Lynn Andrews and Miriam Guyor are teachers this year.

## Mary Martha Guild

Mary Martha Guild will meet Thursday, May 9<sup>th</sup> at noon in the Fellowship Room for lunch and a business meeting. Bring a sandwich, dessert and beverages will be provided. Bea Gubanche is the hostess for March.

## Coffee Donations

There is a container on the counter by the coffee pots for freewill donations to help pay for the cost of Coffee Hour. Any help will be greatly appreciated.

## Prayer Group

God's Grace Through Prayer meets the second Thursday of each month at 11 a.m. in the Community Room. We will be praying for our family and friends. Anyone is welcome to join us. Please let us know if you have any prayer needs.

## Coffee Hour

Although we gather for coffee, visiting and goodies each Sunday after service, we have a special Coffee Hour the first Sunday of each month when special food is prepared and shared. This is provided by members. To take a turn to host, please sign up in the Community Room.

Hundreds of older and disabled neighbors in our community need help getting to doctor appointments, the grocery store or other essential errands. Being able to get food and medical care can make it possible for them to remain in their homes as long as possible. The **Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers** program is in need of drivers who are available during daytime hours. If you have just a couple hours a month that you can give to someone in need, you can make a huge difference in the life of a struggling neighbor. You tell us what days, times and areas are convenient for you and we call you with specific appointments that meet your criteria. If you are free, say yes. If you're not, simply decline and we will call you another time. Even one more ride a year makes a big difference to the person who needs it! Please call our office today at (586) 757-5551. Learn more at [www.ivcinfo.org](http://www.ivcinfo.org)

**St. Johns**

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**MAY**  
**NEWSLETTER**